

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand delivered to: Customer Window, MS Non-Fee Amendment, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 2011 South Clark Place, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, Virginia 22202, on the date shown below.

Dated: 12/15/03 Signature: Nancy DeRiggi  
(Nancy DeRiggi)

Docket No.: 325772026410  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Junji MACHIDA et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned  
[Divisional of 09/924,494 filed August 9, 2001]  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: DEVELOPING DEVICE AND IMAGE  
FORMING APPARATUS

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Customer Window, MS Non-Fee Amendment  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Sir:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry on this Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.